A Counselor’s Responsibility: Consultation

Megan Soulsby

Liberty University

Annotated Bibliography/Summary

Consultation is one of the key responsibilities of a school counselor. There have been modals beyond models developed to better aid the teachers, administration, parents and school counselors. Hall and Lin (1994) discuss the integrative consultation model and the effectiveness of this model. The framework for this model consists of six steps or parameters: consulting relationship, consulting goal, consultee role, consultant role, consultant communication skills, and consultation process.

The consulting goal focuses on the primary goal for the current consultation and it also is used to better the consultee’s skills so that they will know how to handle similar situations in the future. The consulting relationship is simply the relationship between the consultee and consultant. This relationship must maintain an equality relationship. Consultee roles consist on the importance of understanding that they are a main influence in the consultation process. They have to understand that they remain responsible for the outcome of the situation. On the other hand, the consultant can either take the role of an expert or a facilitator role. If they take the role of an expert, they then supply specific expertise that will help in the situation. The consultation process is the step when the problem is identified, then the plan is developed for change, then the change itself is expected. There are several different models to use for the process but there are three basic steps in every model. Lastly, the consultant communication skills influence the client’s behavior during the counseling session.

Once these 6 parameters are understood then one must continue on to the consultation stages which are entry, diagnosis, implementation, and disengagement. The implementation stages are the action stages when the problem solving begins.

Critique

Just like God is the God of order there must be order within the school systems. Hall and Lin (1994) discuss the form of order in the consultation process. There are many modal out there with strong data to support beliefs. But there correct model must be chosen for each school and the needs within the school. The model spoken of above is a model for elementary schools. It is the basis-body language, body tone, understanding of the process, getting along with everyone that is working toward the goal, not having a sense of hierarchical power but understanding why one is doing what they are doing. Hall and Lin (1994) are correct when they say that there must be a written out model that explains word for word each step. Then the teachers should have to participate in seminars about this process. Hall and Lin (1994) also explain that the teacher involvement is important in the consultation meetings because it will help the teacher learn for future use. In all date, it states that school counselors are extremely busy. There is not going to be time for a school counselor to work over and over again with the same kids but if the teacher is in the consultation process then that teacher will learn about the ways to help this student and even students in the future. Hall and Lin (1994) understood that there are lots of models that exist and they kept there model simply and to the point. It did not have a lot of data on suggestion of steps that a school counselor should take to help the consultation process go smoothly.

References

Hall, A., & Lin, M. (1994). An Integrative Consultation Framework: A Practical

Tool for Elementary School Counselors. *Elementary School Guidance & Counseling*, *29*(1), 16-27. Retrieved from ERIC database.